

## Message Text

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63  
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 FEA-02

SCI-06 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:BGG

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN  
NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

----- 016945

R 222041Z FEB 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR SA US  
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT  
FROM DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING OF FEBRUARY 22, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. I HAVE A COUPLE OF OTHER MATTERS I WOULD LIKE  
TO RAISE HERE. THERE IS A PUBLISHED REPORT TODAY THAT  
A REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAMCO SAID THAT IN AUGUST 1973 KING  
FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA SAID THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER WAR  
WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND THEY WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT  
TO USE OIL AS A WEAPON, AND HIS WARNINGS WENT UNHEEDED.  
WAS SUCH A REPORT RECEIVED BY THE UNITED STATES?

A. WELL, YOU KNOW, THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF WHAT WE KNEW  
ABOUT THE COMBATANTS' CAPABILITIES AND THEIR INTENTIONS  
HAS BEEN PRETTY EXHAUSTIVELY GONE OVER BY THE SECRETARY OF  
STATE SEVERAL TIMES. SO I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED THAT THIS  
SORT OF THING CAN BE REVIVED HERE ALL OVER AGAIN.

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Q. WELL, PERHAPS THE REASON IT HAS BEEN REVIVED IS THIS  
IS A MUCH MORE PRECISE CLAIM THAN HAS EVER BEEN MADE BEFORE  
ON THE RECORD HERE, IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC TIME FACTOR, FOR  
THE OUTBREAK OF ARAB-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES, AND ALSO FOR A  
SPECIFIC WARNING ALLEGED HERE THE ARAB NATIONS WOULD USE  
OIL AS A WEAPON. SO THIS IS A MUCH MORE EXPLICIT ACCUSATION,  
AND UNHEEDED WARNING, THAN THE ONES WE HAVE BEEN DEALING

WITH PREVIOUSLY.

A. WELL--UNHEEDED WARNINGS. YOU KNOW, WE SPENT THE WHOLE  
SUMMER SIFTING INDICATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS AND THAT SORT  
OF THING. WE WERE NEVER UNDER ANY ILLUSION THAT THE  
NATURE OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WASNT  
EXPLOSIVE. AND HOW IN HINDSIGHT NOW SOMEBODY CAN SAY,  
"WELL, WE REALLY KNEW ALL ALONG..." THIS WHOLE PROPOSI-  
TION HAS BEEN, I THINK, PRETTY THOROUGHLY ADDRESSED BY  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE. END QUOTE.

RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAR, PRESS CONFERENCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FMDICKMAN:BGG  
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**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SA, US, XF  
**To:** JIDDA DAHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005